

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 1, 2020 by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Luke 18: 1-8

Title: "Take Me To The KING!"

Have you heard this *Truth*...?

"**GOD** works in a Mysterious Way, **HIS** wonders to perform. **HE** plants **HIS Footsteps** in the sea, and rides upon the Storm!" (Mysterious Way by William Cowper, Hymnal 1982, No. 677)

Our GOD is cosmic, incomprehensible, unknown! Yet, **HE stoops** to answer our every cry; **HE is** present in all parts of Nature, while maintaining a sense of vastness and expansion!

"Take Me To The KING!"

The *song writer* was asked by the *singing star*, to write her a song that would get her more exposure? While the *writer* wasn't comfortable writing songs for radio play, this particular song, (I must say) is speaking volumes, in times like these...

The question asked is, '**Take me to The KING?**' It *speaks* from a sincere heart! It *confesses repentance* and *submission* to **GOD through JESUS CHRIST!** It states, 'I'm willing to *listen*—so I will know what to do.' It *affirms*, 'I will trust **GOD'S WORD**—*believing* it will never fail.'

It also *affirms*, 'I will *obey*—that others will be blessed.'

"Take Me To The KING!"

In the *context* of our *text* (Luke 18: 1-8), **JESUS is teaching** about 'The End Times';

The Coming of The KINGdom of GOD [of which many today, like the Pharisees of old, are asking "When will **The KINGdom of GOD** come? (Luke 18: 20) Not knowing that it has already arrived!

The KINGdom of GOD is not like an earthly kingdom with geographical boundaries. Instead, it begins with **The Work of GOD'S SPIRIT** in people's lives and in relationships. We *must* resist looking to *institutions* or *programs* for *evidence* of the *progress* of **GOD'S KINGdom.**]

JESUS teaches, knowing that **HIS disciples** would be yearning for **HIS** return. **HE knew** they would be facing '*injustices*' and '*the evil of this world.*' They would be *confused* over 'What is **GOD** doing' and 'why is **GOD** not doing something about what's going on?'

So, **JESUS tells** a parable about a '*widow*' who appealed to an unjust *Judge* for Justice.

And **JESUS** says to **HIS disciples**, "...to this end, men ought always to *pray*, and not to faint."

"Constantly *pray*...and never give up." Schedule *prayer*—Always! Seasonally *pray*—Always!

Pray in The SPIRIT—Always! And, 'not to faint'—don't give up!

"Take Me To The KING!"

Question? What causes one to lose heart? To lose focus? Answer, 'ordinary life':

(Luke 17: 26, 27, "...like the people in Noah's day...enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered the Ark and the flood came and destroyed them all."

'Ordinary life' leads to *cold love*! 'Ordinary life' causes one to focus on *living* rather than *life*.

'Ordinary life' makes one insensitive to what **GOD** is (has) done. 'Ordinary life' can lull you to *apathy, distraction, discouragement* and, *cold love*.

Question? How do we not lose heart: Not faint? Answer, Pray! Pray! Pray! Keep on Praying!

The text: Two Characters...

1. *Widow*... lowly, desperate, needy. [There are no details about the *widow's* problem, but that she had been subjected to great mistreatment by someone and wanted the *Judge* to "avenge" her of her adversary.] The *widow*, had no money to bribe. Her only source and help is, this *Judge*. She "came" signifying "continuous action."
2. *Wicked Judge*... no reverence for **GOD** and no respect for man. *Wicked Judge*, no respect, did not care.
[One's *attitude* about **GOD**, will determine one's *attitude* toward man!]
"He would not for a while" ... He *lacked concern*. This *unjust Judge* was not interested in Justice. He *lacked compassion*. He was not moved by the *widow's* suffering. It did not bother him that she was a victim of crime. He *lacked conviction*. Evil did not upset him. He *lacked compensation*. The *Judge* would not give her case priority because she could not fill his pocket with a bribe. [*She came continuously*]
He eventually said "I will avenge her..." "this widow troubleth me . . . she weary me."

"Take Me To The KING!"

Note...

- **JESUS** uses a bad character to teach something . . . Is **GOD** like this *Judge*? NO!!!
GOD is not like this *Judge*! **GOD** does not ignore **HIS** people, *nor* any people!
GOD is **Just**! **GOD** will *save, rescue* and bring *Justice*.
- Like this *widow*, we come to *desperate times, needy times, depressing times*. But like this *widow*, **JESUS** teaches, *Pray! Pray* for your *prayer* to be answered! *Pray* for yourself!
Pray for **The SPIRIT's** assistance! *Pray* until you get into *praying* mode—It's good to strike when the iron is hot. But when the iron is cold, strike it until it gets hot... Eat until you gain an appetite... *Pray* until you *pray*! **GOD** will help you in the pursuit of duty, not in the neglect of it.
- In verse 8, the question is not whether **GOD** will be a good **JUDGE** and bring *Justice*.
The question is whether we will *be ready, trusting* and *persevering* when **JESUS** return.
"...when **The SON of man** cometh, shall **HE** find faith on the earth?"

Pray! Pray! Pray! Prayer to **GOD** ignites passion to persevere!

[If I feel myself disinclined to *pray*, then, it is the ripe time for me to *pray*, more than ever!!!]

Persevering *prayer* to **GOD** is an expression of *Trust*, in **GOD**! It is also an *energizer* for my *trusting GOD*!

Take me to **The KING**,
I don't have much to bring.
My heart is torn in pieces,
it's my offering!

Truth is, I'm tired, options are few.
I'm trying to *pray*, but, where are **YOU**?
I'm, all churched out, hurt and abused.
I can't fake, what's left to do?

Truth is, I'm weak.
No strength to fight.
No tears to cry, even if I tried.
But still my soul, refuses to die.
One touch – will change my life!

Take me to **The KING**,
I don't have much to bring.
My heart is torn in pieces,
it's my offering!

Lay me at The Throne,
Leave me there alone.

To gaze upon **YOUR Glory** and sing to **YOU** this song.
Please take me to **The KING**!

Truth is, it's time, to stop playing games.
We need a **WORD**, for the people's pain!
So, **LORD SPEAK now**, let it fall like rain!
We're desperate, we're chasing after **YOU**!

No rules, no religion!
I've made my decision, to run to **YOU**!
The HEALER that I need!!!

Take me to **The KING**,
I don't have much to bring.
My heart is torn in pieces,
it's my offering!

Take me to The KING! Take me to The KING! Take me to The KING! Take me to The KING!

by **GOD**, Kirk Franklin, Tamela Mann, **CHRISTian** Music & The Family

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